Reply of Government.--No such general rule can be passed. Questions relating to rights of way primarily belong to civil courts. When local officers interfere in such matters for the convenience of the people they have to take care that each case is properly investigated and they do not unnecessarily encroach upon the jurisdiction of civil courts.

SUBJECT NO. 115.

Fifty yards rule in respect of water courses in coffee land.

Mr. T. Narasinga Rao, North Mysore Native Planters' Association.

Summary of discussion.—The restriction laid down by Government regarding the cultivation of a margin of 50 yards on either side of streams may be reconsidered.

Reply of Government.—The subject has been finally disposed of and cannot be re-opened.

SUBJECT NO. 116.

Cess on coffee.

Messrs. T. Narasinga Rao, North Mysore Native Planters' Association, and C. Vasudeva Rao, Chikmagalur Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The North Mysore Native Planters' Association is not in favor of the levy of the cess on coffee which the European planting community in Mysore is urging on the Government of India for the popularization of coffee. If the question should come up before Government, it is requested that the native planters, who form a large majority and own a much greater extent of coffee land than the European community and who also produce by intensive cultivation more maunds to the acre, may be consulted before any decision is arrived at. The cess need not be levied as it will not improve prices. Indian planters form only a small fraction of coffee producers in the world and as the prices depend entirely upon the Brazil market, Indian coffee can hold its own, only if its quality is superior. The cess is intended to be applied in advertising it. If it were to advertise Mysore coffee only, there can be no objection.

There are altogether 140,000 acres under coffee cultivation in Mysore. Of these, 100,000 are in the holding of Indians. They sell most of their coffee locally as they find it more profitable to do so. Many of the small coffee planters are able to increase the produce by intensive cultivation and as the cess is nine pies per maund or three annas per cwt., they will have to pay the cess in a higher proportion. The cess is moreover intended to popularize coffee of every description and not merely Indian coffee.

Mr. C. Srinivasa Rao.—Indian coffee is exported to France and other places. The cess will popularize coffee in England. Messrs. Volkart Brothers and others who buy coffee locally export it chiefly to foreign countries. The cess will therefore mean a loss of price to Indian producers. Removal of all duties on coffee will produce better results.

Mr. Crawford.—Excepting the North Mysore Native Planters' Association, all other Planters, Native and Indian, are in favor of the cess. The cess will not be utilized merely in advertising the coffee in England, but